

Further, the alloy in Sato et al is formed and shaped into a pipe form without heat treatment. Instead it is subjected to a dispersion-strengthening treatment carried out at a temperature of 820°C for 4 hours. Although the treatment conditions are similar to those of the present invention (i.e., 20-80 hours), the heating period of time is much shorter. As a result, most of the Mg and Ni is maintained in the elemental state rather than oxidized. The alloy in Sato et al therefore consists of Ag-Mg-MgO-Ni-NiO, which is clearly distinguishable from that of the present invention.

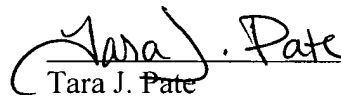
Claims 1 and 4 have also been amended to “wt% of the Ag alloy material” for clarity.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejections based on anticipation and obviousness be withdrawn.

Application No.: 09/787,907
Inventor: SHIMA

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
02-2135, referring to client-matter number 2922-0109.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment: Marked Up Copy of the Claims

MARKED UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A composite material, wherein said composite material [comprises] consists essentially of an Ag alloy material in a pipe or tape form and a superconductive material, wherein said Ag alloy material at least partially encloses the superconductive material, and

wherein said Ag alloy material [comprises] consists essentially of Ag as a base material and MgO, wherein the MgO is dispersed in Ag base material and formed through the process of internal oxidation, wherein said MgO is 0.03 to 3.3 wt% of the Ag alloy material, the balance being Ag.

4. (Amended) A composite material, wherein said composite material [comprises] consists essentially of an Ag alloy material in a pipe or tape form and a superconductive material, wherein said Ag alloy material at least partially encloses the superconductive material, and

wherein said Ag alloy material [comprises] consists essentially of Ag as a base material, and MgO and NiO, wherein the MgO and NiO are dispersed in the Ag base material and are formed in the Ag base material through the process of internal oxidation, wherein MgO is 0.01 to 1.7 wt%, NiO is 0.02 to 1.3 wt% of the Ag alloy material, the balance being Ag.